

Applicants have no intention of abandoning any non-elected subject matter and should it be necessary, Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more continuation and/or divisional applications directed to non-elected subject matter.

### CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the present application is fully in condition for examination. An early examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this application, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

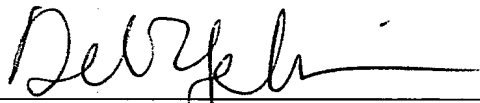
In the event any further fees are due to maintain pendency of this application, the Examiner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: December 15, 2003

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Deborah H. Yellin

Registration No. 45,904

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620